estimated cost of Rs. 114 Crore with Government of India assistance of Rs. 40 Crore.

Availability of Cotton Yarn

1643. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any handloom and powerloom units are facing closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the number of such units closed down in the country till date, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has announced any relaxation in the import of cotton yarn in view of its insufficient availability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure the availability of cotton yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The data of production, price and import of cotton yarn during last three years is furnished in Statement. This shows ample availability of cotton yarn to handloom and powerloom sectors at reasonable prices. As such, handloom and powerloom units are not facing closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Import of cotton yarn is under Open General License. Further steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of cotton yarn inclued:—

- To improve productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology **Mission on Cotton (TMC)**. The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- **The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme** (TUFS) was launched to facilities the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry.

- To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the **"Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)"** has been introduced in **July 2005.**

- In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.

- To facilitate import of State of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

Statement

Details of Production, Price and Import of Cotton yarn During the last three years.

(A)

Production of cotton yarn during last three years

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Apr.—Sept.	
				2005-06	2004-05
Production of cotton yarn (million kilogram)	2177	2121	2272	1227 (Provisional)	1113

(B)

Movement of prices (in Rs. per Kg) of cotton yarn during last three years

Period (Quarter ending September)	Hank (Weighted average)	Cone (Weighted average)
2003	107.73	106.18
2004	113.46	122.54
2005	89.13	105.89

The above data of production and price of Cotton yarn show minor fluctuations, but now there is an incresing trend in production and declining trend in Prices. This shows ample availability of cotton yarn to handloom and powerloom sectors at reasonable prices

(C)

Import of cotton yarn during the last three years

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Import of Cotton yarn (million kilogram)	2.86	2.40	2.95

Collection of Textile Committee Cess

1644. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is yet to collect large amount of Textile Committee Cess;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of cess collected by Government so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to withdraw the Textile Committee Cess; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 31.97 lakh is outstanding as regular cess dues remaining to be collected by the Textile Committee as on 1.12.2005.

(c) An amount of Rs. 49771.65 lakh has been collected by the Government since the inception of cess on textile products in 1975-76.